

B'reishit
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Shabbat Shalom! My torah portion is B'reishit, and I am going to explain the Garden of Eden, and Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve met a talking snake in the Garden of Eden, which tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit. After they ate it, they both realized that they were not wearing any clothes, so they made makeshift clothes out of leaves. G-d then punished them for eating the fruit and the snake for tempting them to eat the fruit. Adam had to work for food, Eve had to endure the pain of bearing children, and the snake had to crawl on his belly. However, G-d did do something very nice for Adam and Eve; he made them something to wear. I thought this was a very nice thing to do, because he knew that they did something wrong, but he gave them clothing anyways.

I had an experience that reminds me of the story of Adam and Eve. There is a brick wall surrounding my Grandma's house in Arizona that overlooks a road. My siblings and I used to love to climb on the wall when we were little. However, our parents always told us not to climb it because we would get hurt or fall into one of Grandma's plants and harm it. One day, I was climbing on the wall, and slipped and scraped my chin on the bricks. I have

not climbed on the wall since that accident. This relates to the story perfectly, because G-d told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit, and they did anyway. My parents also told me not to do something and I did anyway. We all had to suffer the consequences: Adam and Eve were punished and I got a bad cut on my chin. However, even though I did not listen to my parents and Grandma, they still bandaged my chin, and they still love me even though I disobeyed them. G-d still gave Adam and Eve clothing so that they wouldn't go out into the world not wearing anything. This shows that G-d still appreciated Adam and Eve, even though they didn't listen to him.

This story is important to me, because it reminds me that if I do something wrong, my parents and G-d will still love me. The problem will be resolved, and eventually be forgotten and everyone will move forward. There is forgiveness in the world, so no one should stay mad at someone forever; they should eventually forgive each other.

The story of Adam and Eve also relates to my Mitzvah projects. Before Adam met Eve, G-d showed Adam all of the animals that he created and loved, and Adam even named them all. For my Mitzvah project, I am donating pet supplies and money to the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society.

If someone brings home an animal from an adoption center, it becomes his or her responsibility. They should take care of it in sickness and health and it is theirs to love and keep forever. When Adam named all of the animals, he had to give them affection and take care of them all, too! My other Mitzvah project is participating in environmental cleanup projects. During one such event, volunteers gathered to help clean up the Connecticut River and the woods around it. This was a very neat activity, because I liked helping to make the river a cleaner and more beautiful place for everyone's enjoyment. I plan to continue to volunteer for these types of projects in the near future.

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